

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Support for claims 19 and 20 is found in claim 18 as previously presented. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 11-12 and 15-20 will now be active in this application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention is directed to a water-based ink.

Applicants wish to thank examiner Shosho for indicating that claim 14 would be allowable. Claim 1 has been rewritten in to incorporate all of the limitation of allowable claim 14.

The rejection of claims 4 and 18 has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

Claim 4 has been canceled to eliminate the inconsistency of the recitation of a pigment in claim 1. In addition, process claim 18 has been amended to only describe the preparation of the water-based ink of claims 1-3, 5 or 15. Claims 19 and 20 have been added directed to the process for preparing the water-based ink of claims 1, 9, 11 and 12 and claims 16-17 respectively.

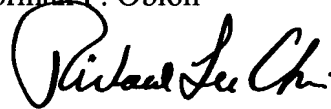
The rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is believed to be moot as claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 14. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of original claim 1 in one or more continuation applications.

Application No. 10/602,614
Reply to Office Action of September 25, 2006.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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